



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### ***Young Teens Report Being Followed by Suspicious Man*** Police Asking Citizens To Be on the Lookout

Howard County police are investigating two similar reports of young teenage girls being followed while walking in a Columbia neighborhood. The teens reported that they were followed by a suspicious man driving a white van.

Police received the first report this evening when two girls, both 13, told police they were followed by the van around 1:30 as they walked together along Amherst Ave. in the Allview Estates area. One of the girls observed the van following her as she walked alone to meet the second girl. After the two met, they began walking together and the van continued to slowly follow them until they reached home.

Upon hearing of this incident from neighbors, the parent of another girl, 15, reported to police today that a similar incident had occurred on Saturday. In that case, the driver of the white van followed the girl as she walked alone on Amherst Ave. around 7:30 p.m. The girl reported that the man stopped the van, exited and began to follow her on foot. The girl ran to the home of nearby friend.

The teens reported that the vehicle was a white van and was driven by a Middle-Eastern or Hispanic man in his 20s or 30s, with very short brown hair, a medium build and no facial hair.

Police are asking anyone with information about these incidents to call 410-313-3200. Police are also urging residents in the Allview Estates area to be on the lookout for a suspicious white van or a suspicious subject matching this description and to contact police immediately.

No additional information is available at this time.

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